IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please CANCEL claims 3, 4, 8 and 15-19 and AMEND claims 1, 5-7, 9, 10 -12, 13 and 20 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A ~~preprocessing~~ processing method for an engineering activity, comprising:

a) connecting a first ~~unit~~ event of ~~an~~ the engineering ~~process~~ activity to a set of second ~~units~~ events of the engineering ~~process~~ activity in a ~~predefined fashion~~cause-and-effect relationship;

b) determining at least one third ~~unit~~ event of the engineering ~~process~~ activity from the set of second ~~units~~ events~~which has a predefined relationship with the first unit~~; and

c) carrying out the connection ~~structural preparation~~ of the at least one third ~~unit~~ event to the first event in a predecessor/successor relationship~~as preprocessing~~.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the ~~units~~ events have ~~an orientation~~ a predecessor/successor relationship with respect to one another.

6. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~1~~5, in which the first ~~unit~~ event ~~is used to represent only~~precedes the ~~at least one~~ third ~~unit~~ event in the predecessor/successor relationship~~which is a predecessor of the first unit~~.

7. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~1~~5, in which the ~~first unit is~~ third event succeeds the first ~~used to represent only the at least one third~~ event in the predecessor/successor relationship~~unit which is a successor of the first unit~~.

8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the ~~units~~ events have associated information, generated as results of the activities~~are information, in particular activities and/or results of the activities~~.

10. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 for ~~visualizing~~ representing ~~a technical system~~an engineering activity system or a portion thereof with a graphical user interface.

11. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~1~~10, in which the graphical representation is effected by means of actuation using a context-sensitive menu.

12. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the ~~units~~ events are used to design ~~a technical system~~an engineering activity.

13. (Currently amended) A processing system, having a processor to construct:

a) a first ~~unit~~ event of an engineering ~~process~~ activity connected to a set of second ~~units~~ events of the engineering ~~process~~ activity in a ~~predefined fashion~~cause-and-effect relationship;

b) at least one third ~~unit~~ event of the engineering ~~process~~ activity determined from the set of second ~~units which has a predefined relationship with the first unit~~events; and

c) a ~~structural preparation~~ connection of the at least one third ~~unit~~ event to the first event in a predecessor/successor relationship~~being carried out as preprocessing~~.

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~8~~7, in which the ~~units~~ events have associated information, generated as results of the activities~~are information, in particular activities and/or results of the activities~~.